

Applicant : Jeffrey H. Burns
Appln. No. : 10/679,752
Page : 5

REMARKS

Claims 1, 11, 12, 13 and 17 have been amended. Upon entry of the above amendments, claims 1-19 are pending and under consideration in the application.

Claim Objections

Claims 11, 12, 13 and 17 have been objected to on grounds that they are alleged to lack clarity and precision. The claims have been amended to overcome the alleged grounds for objection.

Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. §102

Claims 1-7, 9-13, 15-17 and 19 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Melman et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,564,018).

The claims have been amended to more clearly specify the nature of the coupling described between the optical imaging element and the substrate in the specification. As will be appreciated by reference to the specification (e.g., paragraph 21), the coupling between the optical imaging element and the substrate is an electrical coupling in which integrated circuit 16 "includes electrically conductive pads 28 for electrically coupling optical imaging element 24 to circuit members 14."

The above-referenced clarification distinguishes the claimed invention from the teachings of Melman et al., in which an optical imaging element 116 is electrically connected to an opaque circuit 102, which in turn is electrically connected to an electrical circuit board (not shown) via pins 104 (see column 3, lines 55-58 of Melman et al.). Melman et al. does not describe the claimed invention in which an optical imaging element is electrically coupled to an optically transmissive substrate. Further, Melman et al. does not provide any apparent reason or enablement for modifying the disclosed imaging device so that optical imaging element 116 is electrically coupled with cover glass 806.

An important and novel feature of the invention which is not anticipated or obvious based on the prior art is the concept of providing an optically transmissive substrate 12 on which conductive leads 15 may be formed to facilitate direct electrical coupling of an optical imaging element 24 to optically transmissive substrate 12 thereby eliminating the need for a

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Appln. No. : 10/679,752
Page : 6

separate cover glass 806 as disclosed by Melman et al. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection is appropriate.

Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. §103

Claims 8, 14 and 18 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Melman et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,564,018) in view of DiOrio et al. (U.S. Patent Application Publication 2004/0217767).

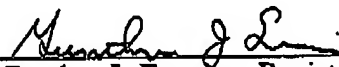
For the reasons set forth above with respect to the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §102 based on Melman et al. alone, it is respectfully submitted that dependent claims 8, 14 and 18 are allowable. More specifically, the combination of Melman et al. and DiOrio et al. does not provide any apparent reason for making the very substantial modifications necessary to achieve the claimed invention in which an optical imaging element is electrically coupled to an optically transmissive substrate.

CONCLUSION

In view of the above amendments and remarks, is it respectfully submitted the application is in condition for allowance and notice of the same is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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